



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

4/26
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,731	08/28/2001	Norihiro Araki	KPM-01801	5139
26339	7590	04/28/2004	EXAMINER	
PATENT GROUP CHOATE, HALL & STEWART EXCHANGE PLACE, 53 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			SCHEUERMANN, DAVID W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2834	

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/940,731	Applicant(s) ARAKI, NORIHIKO
	Examiner David W. Scheuermann	Art Unit 2834
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 February 2004</u>.		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-16</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-16</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>13 June 2003</u> is/are: a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner.		
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.		
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).		
a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.		
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.		
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).		
a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 23, 2004 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 9 -11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takekawa, US 5783917 in view of Motzko et al., US 6016043. Takekawa discloses the invention of a brushless DC motor 10; supplying starting current to the motor, see 71 in figure 9; measuring an induced voltage, see block 74; and supplying a drive current for the armature coil in response to the said induced voltage, see block 75. Since the motor is started in synchronous mode (column 7, lines 24) it is inherent that a waveform is selected from states 1- 6 as shown in figure 3 and described in column 6, lines 21-43. Note that "drive device" 20 is considered a power supply unit since it supplies starting and drive current to the motor. Takekawa does not expressly disclose selecting a first starting waveform from a plurality of stored waveforms. Motzko et al. disclose storing the commutation signals to be supplied to the motor in a memory, for the purpose of modulating the commutation angle as noted in the paragraph bridging columns 7 and 8 (especially note waveform table 186). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the commutation signals (i.e., states 1- 6) of Takekawa in a memory. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to enable the motor to operate as a stepper motor and to facilitate changes in operating characteristics via software rather than hardware.

Re claims 2 and 10, note position detection circuit 50. As to claims 3 and 11, note in column 7, lines 15-39, that the measuring is executed after the supplying of the starting current.

Claims 1-2, 4, 9-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassat et al., US 5245256 in view of Motzko et al. Cassat et al. disclose the invention of a brushless DC motor 100; supplying starting current to the motor, column 3, lines 57-66; measuring an induced voltage, column 3, lines 57-66; and supplying a drive current for the armature coil in response to the said induced voltage, see column 11, lines 15-17. Cassat describes that the motor is started in synchronous mode as set forth in column 7, lines 61-66 and column 1, lines 28-34. Furthermore, it is inherent that a waveform is selected in the device of Cassat when it is started in synchronous mode. Note that driver 107 is considered a power supply unit since it supplies starting and drive current to the motor. Cassat et al. do not expressly disclose selecting a first starting waveform from a plurality of stored waveforms. Motzko et al. disclose storing the commutation signals to be supplied to the motor in a memory, for the purpose of modulating the commutation angle as noted in the paragraph bridging columns 7 and 8 (especially note waveform table 186). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the commutation signals of Cassat et al. in a memory. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to enable the motor to operate as a stepper motor and to facilitate changes in operating characteristics via software rather than hardware.

Re claims 2 and 10, note column 3, line 65. As to claims 4 and 12, note in column 3, lines 59-63, the back EMF is measured on the phase not energized.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makaran, US 5744921 in view of Motzko et al. Makaran discloses

the invention of a brushless DC motor 102; having power supply 104, figure 1; supplying starting current to the motor; measuring an induced voltage, as described in the abstract; and supplying a drive current, see figure 5. One or more phases A-E (forming a waveform) in device of Makaran is inherently selected, to begin the process of simulating a rotating magnetic field to cause the motor rotor to rotate. Note motor power supply 104 that supplies starting and drive current to the motor. Makaran does not expressly disclose selecting a first starting waveform from a plurality of stored waveforms. Motzko et al. disclose storing the commutation signals to be supplied to the motor in a memory, for the purpose of modulating the commutation angle as noted in the paragraph bridging columns 7 and 8 (especially note waveform table 186). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the commutation signals of Makaran in a memory. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to enable the motor to operate as a stepper motor and to facilitate changes in operating characteristics via software rather than hardware.

Re claims 5 and 13, note the logic flowchart depicted in figure 4 and figure 5. If there is no movement, 322, after the application of a first starting current, 318, a second starting current, 336, is supplied.

As to claims 6 and 14, note the abstract teaches stopping the rotor before reverse windings 114 are energized.

Claims 7 and 15 call for the motor to accelerate to a predetermined speed. Makaran teaches inputting set-point speed signal 146 into the motor controller, as

shown in figure 1 to achieve such an effect. Note in column 10, lines 24-34 that in the system of Makaran supplies a varied duty cycle to provide closed-loop control. Since measured speed is compared to set speed, it is inherent that measured speed is used to control the drive current. Furthermore, because the measured speed signal is based on rotor position and rotor position in turn is determined based on induced voltage it is inherent that the control of drive current is based on any of measured speed, rotor position and induced voltage. Therefore, in the closed-loop control system of Makaran drive current is based on measured speed and rotor position and induced voltage.

Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Makaran and Motzko et al. The combination of Makaran and Motzko et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed as set forth in the rejection of claim 1 above. The combination of Makaran and Motzko et al. do not expressly disclose accelerating the motor the predetermined speed at maximum torque. However the combination of Makaran and Motzko et al. provide that the PWM signal may be varied up to 100%, see Makaran column 6, lines 40-43, permitting the motor to operate at maximum torque. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to set the PWM signal to 100%. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this cause the rotor to accelerate to the predetermined speed in the shortest time. Since measured speed is compared to set speed, it is inherent that measured speed is used to control the drive current.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2834

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David W. Scheuermann whose telephone number is (571) 272-2035. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached at (571) 272-2044. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

dws
April 21, 2004


THANH LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER